



Jewish immigration drops to 75,000

TEL AVIV (AP) — About 75,000 Jews are expected to immigrate to Israel this year, including 63,500 from the former Soviet Union, a significant drop from the previous year, mainly reflecting a drop in Soviet immigration, it said. The agency, which assists in bringing Jews to Israel, said 145,000 people arrived from the Soviet Union in 1991. Total immigration last year was 170,740, Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Diniz predicted that immigration would pick up again in 1993, with about 100,000 coming to Israel from the former Soviet Union. He said the Jewish Agency would help by stepping up its activities with young people. The wave of Jewish immigration from the former Soviet Union began in the spring of 1989, when the Soviet Union relaxed exit rules. Soviet immigration peaked at about 105,000 in 1990, but has since slowed considerably because of high unemployment and housing problems in the Jewish state. About 4.2 million of the 5.1 million citizens of Israel are Jews. The rest are Christians, Muslims and Druze.

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Jordan appeals to world bodies

GENEVA (Petra) — Jordan's UN ambassador in Geneva Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf today voiced Jordan's rejection of Israel's repressive measures in the occupied Arab territories and condemned its violations of human rights and Geneva Conventions which call for protecting civilians at times of war under occupation. In meetings with officials from the Human Rights Committee and the High Rights Centre in Geneva, Sharif Fawwaz called on the international community to force Israel to implement these conventions. Israel last week expelled more than 400 Palestinians to Lebanon. Sharif Fawwaz sent a letter to the chairman of the Human Rights Committee in Geneva calling on him to condemn the deportation and pressure Israel to rescind its decision.

Guerrillas rocket Israel's ally

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese guerrillas fired rockets at a post in Israel's militia allies in Lebanon Monday and the militia fired back with artillery. The guerrillas fired several rockets at the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia post in the area of the "security zone." The SLA opened up at the end of the rocket fire. There was word on casualties on both sides. Israeli artillery fired on Sunday night at an area near Israeli and SLA positions. No one was reported killed. A 415 Palestinian soldier by Israel spent the last night in the area.

Protest staged in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Scores of protesters demonstrated Monday in support of the 415 Palestinian soldiers expelled from Lebanon and after they were expelled by Israel. The protesters gathered in Khartoum where they held a petition asking the UN Security Council to force Israel to allow the expelled group to go home. The Palestinians say they will boycott the talks until the Israelis allow the expelled group to go home. Even if Israel did let them back, the Palestinians did not expect progress unless Israel changed its attitude to the negotiations, he added. "We believe that (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin is killing it (the peace process) and there are a lot of things (to be done) to protect it from what Rabin is doing and what has been done before," Mr. Hussein said. "At first, we are asking Israelis to be serious about the whole problem, to act as negotiators and not only as occupiers who would like to ... destroy another people."

U.S. to seek rerun vote

GRANDE (R) — Yugoslav Minister Milan Panic, during irregularities in Serbian electoral elections Sunday, seek a rerun of the ballot in 90 days, one of his aides said. The news agency Monday said official returns from the election commission showed outgoing President Stojan Milosevic leading Mr. Panic in the elections on Sunday on course for a first round on page 8. The Panic camp had cited irregularities and would go an official appeal against elections.

Iran smugglers fined 70 million

TEHRAN (R) — A court has fined several people 400 billion (\$270 million) for trying to smuggle a hoard of antiquities out of Iran, Kayhan newspaper said Monday. It quoted Tehran's Islamic Revolutionary prosecutor as saying police had seized several people and a huge collection of precious objects, some stolen from museums. "All the plundered objects and precious objects are confiscated and handed over to the national heritage organization," it quoted Mr. Raisi as saying.

Israelis, allies block expelled Palestinians from returning home

2 wounded in S. Lebanon confrontation; 10-year-old shot dead in West Bank

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers and their militia allies prevented 415 Palestinians expelled by Israel from returning to their homes Monday with machinegun fire and artillery. Two Palestinians were wounded.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez urged the U.N. Security Council to "impose clear sanctions on Israel" for expelling the Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories and reiterated Lebanon's refusal to accept them.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, vowing to block the return of the expelled Palestinians, said he had no pity for the 415 men stranded between Israeli and Lebanese troops.

Israeli soldiers and the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen twice fired a hail of warning shots at the Palestinians as they were pushed back towards Israeli lines by the Lebanese army.

Mr. Rabin, speaking in parliament, conceded conditions were harsh for the Palestinians expelled with only a coat, a blanket and \$50 each into freezing conditions last Thursday night.

But, defending the unprecedented expulsions of alleged Islamic activists and rejecting foreign criticism, Mr. Rabin said: "There is no pity in my heart for them."

Mr. Rabin said it was up to Lebanon to take in the 415 men dumped across the Israeli lines. He portrayed the confrontation Monday as a propaganda struggle.

"Our position is firm. We will not allow them to return," he said. The Israeli high court delayed until at least Tuesday a ruling on appeals against the expulsions by civil rights lawyers. The lawyers argued the Palestinians were dumped in South Lebanon before they could appeal against the expulsions.

Extra troops flew to Israel's northern border by helicopter and then crossed into the "security zone," patrolled by Israelis and the SLA, security sources said.

"There were attempts to move forward by the deportees toward the security zone," said the army. "These attempts were stopped with the advance of Israeli and SLA forces."

Israel denied its troops fired but would not comment on SLA shooting at the Zembra checkpoint to prevent the Palestinians entering the "security zone" in South Lebanon.

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Palestinians carry one of their comrades wounded in gunfire from Israeli soldiers and their allies in South Lebanon in a confrontation Monday (AFP photo)

Gulf leaders gather in Abu Dhabi for summit

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries assembled Monday in Abu Dhabi for their annual summit in hope they were putting internal rivalries aside to confront other issues. On Sunday, Qatar and Saudi Arabia announced agreement on a border dispute after Egyptian mediation, ending Qatar's three-month boycott of the GCC. Conference sources said the leaders were to seek means of smoothing over difficulties hindering good relations with Iran and warding off what they described as the Iraqi menace. Ways of buttressing combined defences and broadening the scope of economic cooperation topped the agenda, they said.

Somali warlords move gunwagons from capital

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — The two main warlords in Mogadishu have begun to move their "technical" battlewagons out of the capital under a U.S.-brokered peace agreement. U.S. officials said Mohammad Farah Aideded had moved his technicals out of the southern part of the city Monday and his chief rival, Ali Mahdi Mohammad, would move his from the north Tuesday. "It's a Somali operation, aimed at bringing Mogadishu back to what it was before the civil war," one U.S. official said. He said freelance bandits or factions not aligned with General Aideded or Mr. Ali Mahdi would be told via radio and newspaper announcements to get their technicals out of town fast. U.S.-led coalition forces would play no direct role in the operation. But they had been informed of the routes and times when the militia vehicles would move to locations just outside the city. "The one thing we want to avoid is a confrontation," the U.S. official said. Mr. Ali Mahdi and Gen. Aideded agreed on Dec. 11 to move "all forces and their technicals" outside Mogadishu as part of a seven-point peace plan reached two days after the multinational force reached Somalia to secure relief routes for the starving. In what has become a familiar pattern, troops of Operation Restore Hope seized another city without opposition but came under fire in two cities they had taken earlier. U.S. Marines and Belgian paratroopers Sunday took control of the port and airport in the southern city of Kismayu, reopening an important gateway for food shipments to this ravaged country. Clan fighting and looting had kept Kismayu's port closed for months, reducing the aid flow to a trickle delivered by planes from neighbouring Kenya.

Court questions takeover of Arab homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (RI) — The Israeli justice ministry said Monday Jewish settlers used "mistaken" claims in taking over several Palestinian homes in Arab East Jerusalem last year. In October 1991, armed settlers seized five homes in Silwan, an Arab village of 30,000 inhabitants beneath the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. Arab families disputed the settlers' ownership in Jerusalem district and magistrate courts. Justice ministry spokeswoman Ety Eshed said the Jerusalem district prosecutor had submitted documents to the court showing at least three houses were not "abandoned property" — the legal claim used by Jews to acquire property in Arab areas. Israel Radio said the sales might not now be cancelled or the Arab families compensated. Settlers have used property laws that term a large number of Arab houses as "abandoned," legal subterfuge and force to take over more than 50 houses in Arab East Jerusalem, most inside the walled Old City. The former hardline Likud government enthusiastically backed the settlers but Labour Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has moved to curb such settlement.

Government reports its compliance with House's decisions on Audit Bureau

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has informed the Lower House of Parliament that the government has taken appropriate and effective measures to implement recommendations by the House's Financial Committee to solve problems facing the Audit Bureau and safeguard public funds and improve management of state finances. In a letter to House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, the prime minister said the government had honoured its commitments to the House made in the previous Parliament session and had also embarked on studies designed to introduce amendments to legislation related to the work of the Audit Bureau in the light of a Parliament debate about the bureau's work during the extraordinary session last summer.

In September of this year, Sharif Zeid said, he circulated to various departments the House committee's recommendations and urged them to take administrative measures to conform to the House resolutions and recommendations and to avert further violations and financial excesses. So far the government departments have achieved a great deal in handling these issues with the help of the newly-established Office for Administrative Inspection and Control, the prime minister said. He said that the Finance Ministry has been entrusted with the task of working out a unified system for government purchases and another for the collection of state funds. The Finance Ministry will also

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. sending more guards to protect Iraq aid trucks

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations announced Monday that additional U.N. guards will be sent to protect truck convoys carrying aid to Iraqi Kurds from bombs and mines that have been attached to the vehicles. The new guards will be sent to two checkpoints at Fibar and Kahzar, said U.N. spokesman Joe Sills. The checkpoints are in Iraq, and the United Nations has asked Baghdad for visas for the new guards, Mr. Sills said. The World Food Programme (WFP) Friday announced a temporary halt to the winter relief programme from the Iraqi Kurds after several Turkish trucks carrying relief supplies were damaged by bombs. WFP spokesman Francis Mwanza said in Rome Friday that

71 trucks had been held in Bohuk, northern Iraq, while the U.N. secretary-general's office considered the programme's request for more security. The suspension came in response to the third series of bomb attacks on Turkish trucks in three weeks. On Wednesday eight trucks were blown up by the bombs and bombs were defused on nine others, Mr. Mwanza said. Some 410 trucks in 25 convoys had made it safely into northern Iraq, carrying over 8,000 tonnes of food, and other supplies, Mr. Sills said. Iraqi Kurdish officials have said the trucks had been booby-trapped after their drivers were taken away for questioning at an Iraqi checkpoint at Fibar. The drivers were returning after unloading supplies in the Kurdistan, held part of northern Iraq.

52 killed, 23 missing in Dutch air crash

FARO, Portugal (AP) — A chartered Dutch jet carrying more than 300 holiday travellers split in two and burst into flames Monday while trying to land in a storm at this beach resort. At least 52 people were killed and 23 were missing, an airport official said. Smoke poured from the wreckage of the Martinair DC-10 and hampered efforts to remove bodies from the burned fuselage. TSF radio reported. The front of the DC-10 was largely intact, but the middle and tail section crumbled in the fire. Wreckage was strewn across 400 metres. There were reports of survivors struggling out of the burning wreckage as much as an hour after the accident, Portugal's Lusa news agency said. A survivor described the panic as people tried to flee the aircraft. "There was screaming and people falling over each other," passenger Marious Jungerius told Dutch NBS television. "I saw a stewardess with blood pouring from her head. There was blood everywhere."

"Those of us who got out of the plane ran as hard as we could — people were running in all directions," Mr. Jungerius said. "We got to the terminal and there was nothing there, no-one to help us; just people screaming all over the place." Rescue workers were searching through the scorched mid section and tail of the plane, which was still clouded in smoke by mid-afternoon. Forty-two survivors were at the Hotel Ibis in Faro. The pilot, whose name was not immediately available, was among those who survived the crash of the three-engine McDonnell Douglas jet. Dutch embassy spokeswoman Theda van Royen said in Lisbon.

Palestinian meetings in Tunis could be major turning point

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — This week's meeting between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership and senior members of the coalition which oppose the on-going peace talks with Israel is expected to be a turning point in contemporary Palestinian politics. If agreements are reached at the meeting they are likely to reduce the flexibility of the Palestinian negotiators at the peace talks while giving Palestinian participation a wider mandate.

The Tunis meeting also comes at a time when discontent has increased in Palestinian political and popular circles over the domination of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's "kitchen cabinet" in Palestinian decision-making. The cabinet, which includes people like PLO Executive Member Mahmoud Abbas and Arafat's advisor Nabil Shaath, has been accused along with Mr. Arafat himself of undermining efforts to democratise PLO decision-making.

The failure of the "kitchen cabinet's" policies to produce results at the negotiating table 14 months after the peace talks with Israel began has given

those Palestinians who oppose the terms and stipulations of the talks more ammunition.

Criticism of the lack of democracy in PLO decision-making and the lack of progress at the peace table has come from within Mr. Arafat's own group, Fateh, as well as from opposition groups within and outside the PLO umbrella.

While the issues concerned are wide-ranging the most immediate dispute is evidently the peace process.

Palestinian opposition to the peace talks is spearheaded by a group known as the Damascus Ten which have increasingly dominated headlines and led street violence against Israeli forces in the occupied territories. The group, which includes the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), is united in a pact to upset the peace process in September this year.

In October the group vowed to increase their military operations in the occupied territories, and predicted the violence that marked the month of December.

Hamas attacks against

Israeli military personnel claimed the lives of six Israeli soldiers in the last 10 days, setting off a series of events which led to the explosion of the single largest number of Palestinians since the 1967 war.

As if hitting two birds with one stone Hamas appeared to replace the PLO as the leading force to threaten the Israeli army. By provoking the Israelis, who in their zeal to hit back at the Palestinians, expelled 415 blindfolded, handcuffed people, Hamas also exposed Israel's brutality and lack of respect for international conventions.

"Israel wants peace," said Abbas Zaki, a PLO official who handles intifada affairs, "but it wants peace for Israelis only."

"Israel wants a confrontation," said a leftist Palestinian activist this week. "Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin knows very well that Hamas is willing to hit at Israel much stronger than the PLO, specifically Fateh. He knows that as long as the Palestinian negotiators cannot present their people with results, which cannot come about except with

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Local councils to be exempted from 10 per cent of interest on state loans

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs Dr. Abdul Razzaq TUBEISHAT announced Monday that local councils to the Kingdom will be exempted from 10 per cent of the interest on state loans payable by them to the government.

The minister said this measure aims to help the councils in their efforts to develop the local society and to improve the standard of living of the people.

Dr. Tubeishat reviewed the main principles and policies of the ministry stressing that it was keen to preserve the independence of local councils and to give them more powers in accordance with existing legislations and laws. At the same time, he said, the ministry will keep monitoring the work of these councils and municipalities to make sure that they are abiding by law.

The minister said that there were plans to hold a specialised seminar for the joint services councils in the Kingdom. The seminar, he said, will tackle issues such as protecting the environment, and improving council services. "The ministry intends also to organise a general conference for municipal councils in Jordan to study their conditions and activate their role in the field of protecting the environment and developing the local society," he said.

He added that the councils have a distinguished role in terms of the national strategy for protecting the environment which was endorsed recently and the environment protection draft law which was sent to the legislation bureau at the prime ministry for approval.

Dr. Tubeishat also announced at the meeting that a cooperation plan between the ministry and the Cities and Villages Development Bank provides for preparing a comprehensive programme to meet the needs of the ministry, the local councils and the bank, as well as the government's administrative development plan.

According to this programme, three training centres will be established in Amman, Irbid and Mutah to serve municipalities all over Jordan, he said.

Agaba District Governor Qafan Al Majali who was present at the meeting called on the ministry to pay more attention to Agaba in environmental fields, and stressed its importance as Jordan's only outlet to the sea and as a touristic, industrial and commercial centre.

Agaba's clean beaches and diverse coral reefs are affected by the city's intermediate industries and industrial wastes, Mr. Majali said. The meeting was attended by Agaba Mayor Ibrahim Abu Izz, the Cities and Villages Development Bank Director Zuhair Khalifeh, Secretary General of the Ministry Assem Ghosheh and Agaba Region Authority Director Bassa Qaqish.



Dr. Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat

Arab police day celebrated

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab Police Day was celebrated in Jordan, Monday with a major ceremony attended by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein.

Held at the Palace of Culture in Amman, the Prince distributed memorial certificates to veteran and retired police officers and journalists covering police work.

Prince Abdullah also distributed trophies to leaders of police units who won the annual inspection procedures and decorated a number of officers with badges in recognition of their distinguished efforts.

Brigadier Mohammad Basoul, the Public Security Director's (PSD) Inspector General outlined the development of the security forces over the past few years and the PSD's modernisation process at the administrative levels.

"Arab police day does not only entail an annual occasion but rather it is an opportunity to emphasise the noble work of the police force and to project the responsible duties of men and women entrusted with ensuring security for the community," said Brig. Basoul. He voiced appreciation to the PSD personnel for their continued efforts to ensure stability and security for the country.

Another speaker was Brigadier Mohammad Tarazi director of the PSD's public relations and moral guidance who said that by honouring the veteran police of Jordan, the PSD acknowledges their great sacrifice for the nation.

Dr. Maan Abu Nowar, a retired PSD officer, delivered an address on behalf of the retired officers who noted the many achievements of the PSD over the past years.

On the eve of the anniversary, PSD Director General Fadel Ali stressed the important role of the country's police force in protecting the general public. "This day carries a message from the police headquarters to each and every policeman and woman urging them to double their efforts to uphold the values and the principles of the nation and to ensure the rule of law by word and deed," General Ali said in a statement faxed to the Jordan Times.

General Ali went on to outline the various function of the police force in Jordan, its development over the years, the PSD's various activities and training programmes and its ongoing efforts to incorporate modern technology into the police's work.

Following the ceremony, Prince Abdullah inspected an exhibition of PSD machinery and various equipment used in police work.



Prince Abdullah presents Youssef Al Allan a gift of merit for his photo journalism

Jordan, Lebanon talk of joint investments

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of a visiting Lebanese industrial and business delegation said in Amman Monday that his group was seeking the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Lebanese investment company that can market jointly manufactured goods.

Jack Sarraf, chairman of the Lebanese businessmen Association, was speaking at a meeting with the president and members of the Amman Chamber of Industry with whom he discussed Jordanian-Lebanese trade exchanges.

For his part, Khalidoun Abu Hassan, the chamber's president, suggested the convening of an investment seminar as first put forth by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, so that Lebanese and those involved in Jordanian business and economic sectors can discuss ways for coordinating their plans and overcoming obstacles that might impede trade exchanges.

German business delegation invited to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of German businessmen have been invited to Amman in the spring by the prime minister to study prospects for investments in Jordan, according to Dr. Sharif Abu Jaber, a member of the executive council of the Arab German Chambers of Commerce.

The delegation are to familiarise themselves with the opportunities for investment through meetings with government officials and Jordanian businessmen said Dr. Abu Jaber, who has been in Amman to pave the way for the visit. Dr. Abu Jaber met with government officials, responsible for economic development cabinet ministers and officials from the public and private sectors. He said that the Germans will not only explore areas for investment but will also hold a joint seminar with the Jordanian private sector to discuss economic cooperation.

On the role of the Arab German Chamber of Commerce, he said that the chamber promotes the Arab economy in Germany and plays an active role in pointing German industrialists towards Arab investment opportunities.

Dr. Abu Jaber said that the chamber organises seminars, conferences and exhibitions to promote Arab German economic cooperation and tourism to the Arab world including Jordan.

The chamber also acts as a tool to orient the German public about Arab culture and tourism.

"There are great opportunities for Jordanian exporters to enter the German market provided that their products conform to European standards and specifications," Dr. Abu Jaber said. He added that Jordan's democratic climate and internal stability as well as its central geographic location should encourage Germans to invest especially in light of the enacted laws and regulations encouraging and facilitating investments. He urged Jordanian businessmen to maintain strong contacts with German businesses to try and involve German partners in joint investments and transfer of modern technology.

Environment discussed in Agaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan was one of 15 Arab and foreign nations taking part in a general seminar held in Cairo between Dec. 14 and 17 in preparation for the international conference on the environment to be held in Paris in the coming year.

Anis Muasher, president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) who attended the meeting said upon his return to Amman that the delegates discussed topics related to development and the environment, protection of the environment from pollution and the agenda of the Paris conference to be held in September next year.

He said that measures to safeguard the environment in Jordan through the efforts of the RSCN were reviewed and commended by the conference delegates included representatives from: Yemen, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt in addition to Jordan.

Mr. Muasher said earlier that he visited Oman which has been in close cooperation with Jordan in matters related to the protection of the environment and the conservation of nature.

Orthodox Arabs call on Christians and Muslims to unite in Bosnia-Herzegovina

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Religions, particularly Islam and Christianity, call for peace, love and peaceful co-existence and not national strife in the name of religion," said Mr. Sharif. He voiced the Muslim community's total support for the Christian community in Jordan in launching international efforts in support of peace in Yugoslavia.

The General Islamic Congress for Jerusalem and the Orthodox Central Council for Jordan and Palestine call for a general conference for peace and co-existence between representatives of the Orthodox and other Christian communities in Europe and the Middle East on the one hand and their Muslim fellow citizens in the same region on the other. This should reaffirm a common will to eliminate the causes of division and discord. People should live together on the basis of mutual acceptance and respect," said a joint statement issued at a press conference held in Amman.

Former minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and President of the executive council for the General Islamic Congress for Jerusalem who addressed the press condemned the atrocities being committed by the Serbs against other communities in the former Yugoslavian republics.

"We support the initiative of the Orthodox Central Council for a general conference to discuss the situation and we consider this initiative timely to demonstrate our condemnation of the barbaric action committed by the Serbs," said Mr. Sharif.

Later, Dr. Abu Jaber told the Jordan Times that the two sides were holding immediate contacts to set up a joint delegation that would prepare the ground for the proposed conference.

Also addressing the conference which was held at the Orthodox Club was Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber, president of the Orthodox Central Council for Jordan and Palestine. He noted that the Christian and Muslim communities have lived for centuries in peaceful co-existence and fraternity in the Arab world, and he said Yugoslavia should copy the Jordanian experiment," Dr. Abu Jaber said: Both communities have shared the bitter experience of displacement and exile and are partners in the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine and Jordan to defend the holy places and patrimony.

"The Orthodox community expresses deep concern at the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and condemns the concept and practice of ethnic fighting," he said.

Health and drugs workshop commences

AMMAN (Petra) — The establishment of a drug data base of drugs and the local situation in Jordan are the main topics being discussed in a four-day workshop held in Amman Monday.

The workshop is an essential concept of use and control of drugs by the Health Ministry Department in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO). The workshop is being attended by 50 health professionals employed in the Health Ministry in Amman.

The Ministry of Health places importance on basic drugs and their availability for the people, said Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber, the ministry's director general.

He said that the workshop is a joint effort of the Health Ministry and the WHO to improve the standard of health services in Jordan.

"Doctors, pharmacists and nurses complement one another's work and they all shoulder the responsibility for the nation's health," he said. Drugs that can only be dispensed by a doctor's prescription and ways of upgrading the standard of health workers are also on the agenda.

American based telephone company offers cheap international calls

Stephanie Genkin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian businesses dependent on long distance communication services need not be burdened by the extortionate rates of the local telecommunications state-monopoly any more. Thanks to a recent technological innovation marketed by the American based International Discount Telecommunications (IDT), frequent long distance users are able to substantially reduce costs.

For nearly one-third the price of long distance calls made from Jordan, international callers in the Kingdom can dial anywhere in the world-even Israel and the West Bank.

Customers pay 250 U.S. dollars per month which connects them to an American telephone line and allows them to pay American rates which are considerably lower than Jordanian. In technological terms, the system works along the lines of a conference call.

For the monthly fee, overseas callers are hooked into a box which contains an automatic dialer and a conference call mechanism. A caller in Jordan, for instance, dials the New Jersey based company, and after letting the phone ring once, hangs up. The black box registers the caller's number and automatically rings back. Now connected with an American line, the customer in Jordan can place a call anywhere in the world. In other words, the first line connects the caller with the United States, while the second line connects the caller with his desired country.

The savings are substantial. Consider a ten-minute telephone call from Jordan to the U.S. in the evening: If dialed directly from Jordan, the call would cost 29.50 U.S. dollars. The same call, however, placed through IDT would amount to only 13 U.S. dollars.

Mr. Howard Jonas, the company's founder, developed the phone system as a result of his own business ventures overseas, in which one month of long distance calls from Israel to America amounted to an estimated shock of 8,000 U.S. dollars, according to the New York Times newspaper. Prior to the bill, Mr. Jonas had anticipated that the cost of the calls from his office to Israel to the U.S. would come to 1,000 U.S. dollars, said the Times.

In an effort to reduce his phone bill, the 36 year old entrepreneur immediately set up a conference call system; this temporary solution paved the way for a more elaborate device.

With the development of the necessary technology Mr. Jonas decided to branch out and market his cost saving device to overseas companies, many of which are victims of state-controlled telecommunications monopolies.

"Aside from the United States and a couple of European countries, most of the world's telecommunications systems are monopolies owned and controlled by the state," he explained in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times.

"Customers have been forced to pay the rates set by their local phone company because there weren't any competing companies, until now," Mr. Jonas added.

"Our business is successful particularly in the Middle East, especially in Jordan," he told the Jordan Times.

According to an unofficial IDT representative in Amman however there are certain obstacles to marketing the system in Jordan. Cautious of running into problems with Jordan's Telecommunications Corporation, (TCC) the local liaison explained, "if we attempted to market the service in Jordan, there would be many complaints." The actual marketing of the system, therefore, is done through the U.S. office.

Subscription enquiries from companies in the Kingdom are then directed to the unofficial Amman representative. "It's up to the individual," said the contact in Jordan. "The TCC could prevent us from selling the system, but no one can stop people from using the service," he added.

However, some Jordanian companies are reluctant to buy into the IDT system for tax purposes. As bulk patrons of the local telecommunications company, Jordanian businesses enjoy tax breaks on overseas calls.

But the IDT Director claims that the company saves money for clients in the Middle East.

According to the British newspaper, the Independent, oil companies, chemical trading companies and Israeli bi-tech manufacturers are amongst IDT's best customers. Firms in over 90 countries subscribe to the service ringing up several million dollars of business a year.

Although some foreign telecommunications companies such as Spain's have threatened to sue the IDT, authorities in the U.S. have found no legal problems with the cost-saving device. A July meeting between officials from the Federal Communications Commission, Vice President Dan Quayle and Mr. Jonas in Washington found the IDT innovation within legal bounds.

However, due to the monthly charge to hook into the system, the good news is only for large corporations with overseas business. Until a cheaper service is developed, individuals strapped by price long distance bills will remain victim to the state-controlled communications monopoly.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister attends army celebration
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Monday attended a celebration organised by the Royal Mechanised Division to mark the creation of a new unit.

Medical team to head for Croatia
AMMAN (Petra) — A medical team from the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) will head Tuesday for Croatia to extend help to people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, JMA President Isahq said Monday. A press conference held at the Jordan Social Associations Complex, announced that the team will be a shipment of medicine and medical requirements were contributed by doctors from all over Jordan. Dr. Isahq said another Jordanian medical team will leave for Bosnia next month to examine the Bosnian people's needs.

Committee of doctors to help the Bosnian
A committee of doctors for helping the Bosnian people, said Dr. Isahq. The committee has so far collected 900,000 from the Jordan National Red Crescent Society, Zoghol said.

Department confiscates Al Ahali weekly
AMMAN (J.T.) — The Press and Publications Department has issued the second issue of Al Ahali Arabic Weekly this is a statement issued by the tabloid's Chief Editor Jamil Al said. Mr. Nimri protested at this measure, saying the tabloid is already facing financial problems. "The consecutive confiscation of the newspaper add to the tabloid's existing financial problems in addition to financial and administrative problems resulting from printing it abroad, which now seriously threaten our ability to continue to publish it," Mr. Nimri said in a statement which was faxed to the Jordanian press.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

By Rami G. Khouri

Jordan Times

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Appeal wins right

WITH THE incorporation of the right of appeal to the highest court of the land in the new draft law on the State Security Court system, the new legislation was obviously poised for early adoption by the Lower House of Parliament. This much the House did Sunday when it approved the draft law as amended.

The thorny issue about the right to appeal State Security Court decisions had aborted all earlier efforts to speed up the adoption of the new law and kept in force the old law on state security courts.

When Parliament members Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash were arrested on charges of conspiring against state security and then prosecuted on the basis of the old law, many local and international jurists and human rights activists sounded the alarm that any trial under the shadow of the old law that precluded the right of appeal would remain suspect in world eyes. The general amnesty proclaimed by His Majesty King Hussein effectively put an end to the legal snafu that ensued from the trial of the two parliamentarians and set the stage for the adoption of the new law that contained the right of appeal — the missing link in the old law.

Since the file on the law governing the establishment and functioning of state security courts is now wide open, it would be prudent to raise other issues related to this law. Of particular interest in this case is when such courts can be invoked and the kind of circumstances that would warrant their activation. To simply legislate the existence of state security courts on a permanent basis would defeat the very reason behind the creation of such courts that are geared to handle emergency and unusual circumstances and situations. It must be borne in mind that emergency court systems can be applied only in emergency situations threatening the security and stability of the country. What threatens state security and stability must be conservatively construed. Otherwise, there could be opportunities for abuse and arbitrary application of the new law.

Fortunately, the judges who will sit on the benches of the state security courts will be both civilian and military. This is a remarkable improvement on the existing law that may assign only military judges. But on balance the government would be better advised if it appoints civilian judges in matters that do not touch upon military issues, since it is the prerogative of the prime minister to name the judges for any given state security trials.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE PALESTINIANS possess no oil wealth and therefore the so-called new world order can only offer them lip service, which does not serve any purpose, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The Palestinians do not constitute a political or economic investment for the United States and therefore they do not win favour in Washington although their cause has been supported for so long by the United Nations and its Security Council resolutions, the paper said. Despite the world community's solidarity with the Palestinians and their sympathy over the civilians who fell under Israeli bullets, the United States can find no reason for spearheading efforts to help them regain their land rights in their homeland, the paper continued. It said that as the Palestinian deportees freeze in no man's land, the world community only looks on without ending their plight or forcing the Israeli enemy to rescind the unjust order for expulsion. For the past four decades, the Palestinian rights have been usurped and thrown on to the Arab countries by the Israeli forces, added the daily. It said that the Israelis, who are massing settlers in Arab lands, want to have an empty homeland for the immigrants and want to deny the Palestinians the right to form a state. And for this reason, Zionist terrorism continues. The paper said that the Palestinians, like the Iraqis, are adamant in their struggle to retain their rights and are resolved to die, need be, defending their homes and lands. But, it said, the so-called new world order is not doing anything at all to bring justice to the Palestinians and the world and to help establish security in this region.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily tackled the latest Israeli massacre committed against the Palestinian people in Gaza which saw the death and injury of scores of innocent civilians. The paper said the Israeli act of responding favourably to the U.N. Security Council resolution demanding repatriating the over 400 deportees, the Israelis chose to direct their weapons towards the defenceless civilians and kill as many of them as possible. The firing on the Palestinians in Gaza shows the world Israel's determination to disregard the world community's resolutions and its resolve to liquidate the Palestinian problem. Security Council Resolution 799 is totally ignored by Israel which continues to violate the Geneva conventions and the basic human rights of the Palestinian people under its rule, said the daily. The paper said the crime of deportation stands out as the best proof of Israel's atrocities and criminal actions against the oppressed people of Palestine. This, it said, calls for immediate international intervention to put an end to these atrocities and end the plight of the Palestinian people.

The View from Fourth Circle

Fine wine, good cheese and sensible nations

I HAVE had the good fortune in the last several weeks to visit Yemen and Djibouti, for a particularly interesting vantage point on the events in Somalia and the rest of the Horn of Africa. The story in Somalia is important in itself, but the more fascinating tale being played out throughout the Horn of Africa and along the shores of the Red Sea is very similar to the one we are witnessing in Jordan and most other parts of the Arab World. If you thought that Djibouti and Yemen were far away, exotic places, then perhaps you should think again; they are very close to home, in terms of national challenges and aspirations.

The characters, cultures and historical and geographical circumstances are different in Jordan, Yemen and Djibouti, but the fundamental national dynamics in these three very different countries are virtually identical: an indigenous people's quest for a viable political culture and sustainable socio-economic development, in the challenging context of post-colonial distress, an unstable and often violent regional order, continuous demographic upheaval, major economic constraints, a radically changed global geopolitical arrangement and efforts to build more participatory and accountable domestic political systems.

The parallels among the national conditions of Jordan, Djibouti and Yemen, in contrast to their very different socio-economic demographic configurations, strengthen my conviction that the entire Arab World is passing through a historic phase of national transformation — a transformation by which the people of this region are trying desperately to overcome their common stresses and distortions, in favour of building a new, more sensible and more durable Arab order.

It is hard to find three countries more different than Yemen, Jordan and Djibouti. Yemen is largely rural (80 per cent of the people live in 60,000 villages scattered amongst mountains, valleys and desert plains), about 60 per cent illiterate and tribal, with a population of over 12 million people and severe problems of unemployment, housing, water and foreign exchange reserves. Jordan is a modest-sized country of 3.8 million people, largely urban, highly educated (over 80 per cent literacy), with relatively manageable economic and demographic pressures.

Djibouti is a city state of about half a million people, most of whom live in the capital of Djibouti-Ville, depending for survival on France's foreign aid and military presence, and suffering high rates of illiteracy, poverty, disease and unemployment.

The Djiboutians are the first to admit that theirs is a totally artificial state, created as an independent country in 1977 from the legacy of about 130 years of French colonial control. They are a poor version of Singapore, a small, strategically-located synthesis of four different ethnic and linguistic groups forged in the heat of late 19th century colonialism — a world that no longer exists — and trying to adjust to the strange new realities of the late 20th century's anipolar world.

Their independence coincided with the start of the Ogaden Desert War between neighbouring Somalia and Ethiopia, which resulted in the outflow of over half a million Somali refugees, of whom some 100,000 remain in Djibouti today and some 400,000 in Ethiopia.

Ever since, Djibouti has suffered one catastrophe after another, including continuous waves of refugees from the fighting in Somalia and the change of government in Ethiopia last year, as well as from drought in both countries. Floods and the recent internal conflict within Djibouti between the two main tribal groups, the Afars and the Issas, have also displaced tens of thousands of people.

Consequently, Djibouti today strains under the pressures of massive demographic dislocation that has seen the capital nearly double in size in the last decade. Much of the city comprises very poor quarters where the average per capita income is around

\$400. Yet, the Djiboutians are engaged in a serious attempt to develop a pluralistic political system that can have a better chance of long-term survival than the one-party system that has dominated domestic life since independence.

The domestic contest for power-sharing among the Afars and the Issas belies a deeper quest for viable nationhood based on national consensus and individual self-respect, rather than on the past's legacy of colonial imperative, foreign dependence or autocratic domestic controls. The immediate pressures on Djibouti reflect the burden of domestic and regional refugees and the constraints of the government's budget deficit; but these in turn simply mirror the fundamental post-colonial stress that defines most of the Arab World.

It is no accident that the three most stressful and ravaged countries in the Arab World in the last decade — Lebanon, Somalia and Algeria — were all colonised, controlled or created by France (a country I love dearly on its own territory, but not as a colonial power). The next Arab countries to suffer most — Iraq and Kuwait — were artificial British creations... But that's another tale, for another day. It is no coincidence, therefore, that most of the Horn of Africa is in the midst of deep restructuring, with Somalia, Ethiopia and Djibouti all experiencing significant demographic shifts, more democratic internal political rearrangements, or the break-up of old states and the birth of new ones (Somaliland in northern Somalia and Eritrea in northeastern Ethiopia).

Is it any surprise that the three most significant military interventions by American-French-British forces in the Middle East in the last quarter century should have been, respectively, in Lebanon, Iraq/Kuwait, and Somalia? Is this just strange coincidence, or inevitable historical revenge? Whatever it is, it is also part of the broader contemporary Arab phenomenon of countries struggling to get on their feet without the artificial crutches of the cold war and its aid-and-guns-based superpower rivalries.

Yemen and Jordan are passing through similar but less drastic changes. Both countries must deal with population growth that outstrips natural resources, while their economies have not yet developed compensatory life support systems. The legacy of political and economic power almost totally centralised in the hands of the government has seen both countries enter the 1990s deeply hobbled by distortions and dependencies that could not be sustained. The central governments of Jordan and Yemen lack the funds and the human capabilities required to remain the main source of jobs, income, food, shelter, social services and security.

So, we had our small bout of price-rise-instigated street demonstrations in April 1989 and the Yemenis had their larger scale riots last week. Economic distortions, however, are only the surface manifestation of deeper political imbalances in how power is wielded and exercised, and how decisions are made. The important historical changes in Jordan and Yemen relate precisely to this shift in the centre of gravity of the power structure, slightly away from the central government; and slightly more towards the people and their institutions.

It is to the deep credit of the Jordanian and Yemeni people and leadership that both should push ahead with their political transformations in the face of regional turbulence, domestic demographic and economic pressures, and the ugly contempt of powerful, scared neighbours and world powers further away who fear this brand of Arab democratisation. Yemen is also burdened by the additional weight of unifying a country torn asunder by colonial division (is it any coincidence that the French established Djibouti largely to counteract British influence in nearby Aden? Or is it... oh, never mind, if we get into this colonial gazetteer we'll have a hard time getting out — sort of like the western troops in

Kurdistan... but that's another tale, for another, oh mind...)

The sort of structural political change now taking place in Jordan, Yemen, Djibouti and other Arab states does not smoothly. It elicits reactionary tendencies from ancient types which prefer the old ways, the tired old men, have-beens and historical anachronisms who were always comfortable wielding the whimsical levers of autocratic making than submitting to the consent and accountability of their own people. We see in Yemen and Jordan today, as we saw in the more dramatic way in Moscow in August 1991, attempts by old men of yesterday to turn back the clock, to return to the ways of the past and to find a nice, warm, deep place into which they can stick their heads.

But these forays into the false comforts of ancient autocracy will not work. They will not fool the people of Jordan any more than they will fool the people of Yemen or Djibouti. Privileged purveyors of imperial fantasies may try to reassemble old advantages. Some particularly scared and intelligent frenzied people will appeal to narrow tribal and sectarian identities, hoping to cut themselves off from the rest of the and find comfort in isolation and foreign dependencies. Ransacking for safety in a hallucinatory hall of mirrors, work any better today for Gulf sheikdoms, Nubian in Levantine principalities than it did for King Feroz, the son of Palmyra or the crusader king of Jerusalem in ancient times?

The transformation of Arab societies into more entities that are viable and durable because they respect wishes and rights of their people is a process and a force that prove much stronger than the fears and selfishness of an intellectually colonised Arab minority that spends more European and North American capitals than it does in provincial cities. It took Western Europe around one hundred years to make this transformation (from the Roman Empire, Magna Carta) and another half a millennium to instill the rights of individuals within a republican form of government (from the Magna Carta to the French and American revolutions). So we should not be in a hurry to finish our task in haste, nations, like fine wines and cheeses, take time to mature and stabilise.

We should not assess developments in the Middle East in the convoluted spectacles of the American and British media that dominate the world. They will try to peddle Somalia as a humanitarian intervention, along with other defective intellectual merchandise that sells well in little domes and peculiar little Levantine principalities. We respond that humanitarian aid to Somalia is a good deed, support it, but we should insist that the real criterion of our eyes is not only to feed individuals, but to form a sensible, and durable nations.

That — nation-building on the basis of authentic identity — is the real drama of the Arab World today. To guarantee that international forces will have to come back again and again in decades to come, to fight battles that cannot win, in a landscape that cannot be tamed, because the political and national configurations, inherited from the past century, make little sense in their present forms. In this for Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese and all Arabs and interested international observers, Yemen, Djibouti become more relevant lands, a bit closer to home dearer to our hearts.

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Independent Slovakia faces difficult future

By Roland Prinz
The Associated Press

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia — After centuries of Hungarian domination and decades in the Czech shadow, Slovakia becomes independent Jan. 1. But its future looks precarious. Many Slovaks never wanted

their rural state of 5 million to split from the richer Czech lands. Intellectuals and business executives doubt there is enough money to keep central Europe's newest mini state afloat. Even if there were, they say Premier Vladimir Meciar has no idea how to go about it. "There are two possibilities:

either the country as a whole will plunge into quagmire or the government will collapse," said economist Ludovit Kanik, an adviser to the former coalition government led by Christian Democrats, which was ousted by Mr. Meciar. Mr. Meciar campaigned for 'Slovak sovereignty and won June elections.

Slovak yearnings for a stronger identity after centuries of Hungarian rule and what many feel was a second class role in union with the Czechs since 1918 clashed with Czech pride personified by that republic's tough-talking premier, Vaclav Klaus. Mr. Meciar's critics charge that Mr. Klaus insisted on splitting

after Mr. Meciar pushed too hard for sovereignty. They say Mr. Meciar was caught off guard and Slovakia could pay dearly. Ludovit Cernak, the economics minister, disagrees. "It does not see the perspectives for the independent Slovak Republic and economy in dark col-

ours," he said. Slovakia, with its Tatra Mountains, could tourism and might also middleman, between West. It borders Poland north and impossible to the east, while Bratislava just across the Danube Austria.

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Government complies

(Continued from page 1)

work out a system for controlling the finances of the semi-official departments and will propose a way for the maintenance of government-owned vehicles, he said.

Sharif Zeid said he had also instructed departments to avoid making any changes to projects that would entail additional financial burden for the Treasury except with prior approval from the Prime Ministry.

He said the government had instructed the Civil Service Commission to follow up and supervise administrative reform and to ensure modernisation of the procedures in government departments.

The prime minister said he had requested government departments to intensify their efforts aimed at ensuring quick and efficient service.

A series of measures have been taken to ensure development of public administration, he said. These included the creation of specialised units to carry out training and reform in all ministries and departments, he added.

All departments have prepared working plans to simplify procedures and routine and some of these departments have already published their simplified procedures while others' turn will come soon, he said.

He said the working plans of 20 departments with direct contact with the public had been chosen or intensive debate before they were put into force.

Sharif Zeid said the Audit Bureau had completed a comprehensive study for developing its own regulations with a view to improving performance.

The prime minister said that he had instructed the Audit Bureau to include in its annual report to the House all views and remarks concerning violations by government departments pertaining to revenues and expenditure. He said that the Audit Bureau's report would be considered as an annual reference document.

Tunis meetings could be turning point

(Continued from page 1)

Israel's cooperation, the radicals will win wider support on the streets," said an Amman-based Palestinian activist, who is himself a deportee from the occupied territories.

"But the Israelis are playing hardball with the Palestinians and things could get out of hand. Then the Israelis are going to wish they had talked to the PLO, but it will be too late; Hamas and other more radical groups will have the reigns of power," said the activist, a member of the PFLP.

Many Palestinian activists believe that the Rabin government is well aware that Hamas could well take over the PLO if Israel continues to insist that it will not withdraw from the occupied territories.

"Interim autonomy is still what the Israelis have in mind," said a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC). "This means security zones, settler zones and some Arab zones. In other words they don't want to be serious. In fact they are giving those who oppose the talks ammunition," he said. "When you give people ammunition it means you want them to fight. Maybe allowing for greater honesty is part of the long-term Israeli plan. They can detain and expel and do whatever they want under the guise of protecting themselves from Arab terrorists."

Such plans, Palestinian observers in Jordan believe, will serve a dual purpose. "They will 'ethnically cleanse' the occupied territories of Palestinians and claim that retaliatory Palestinian action proves that they don't want to talk peace," said a Tunis-based member of the PLO Executive Committee.

Like the struggle between Israelis and Palestinians the struggle for representational power between Hamas and the

PLO has been highlighted by the events of the last two weeks.

Palestinian activists across the political spectrum see a larger role for Hamas in the Palestinian political arena for some time to come. Such a role for the once-marginal group will eventually translate into a substantial number of seats in the PNC.

While Mr. Arafat has persistently opposed the inclusion of "large" numbers of Hamas members in the PNC, his prerogative to make such decisions may be diminishing as Hamas's popularity increases.

At present Hamas has no seats in the PNC. This is partly by choice and partly because Mr. Arafat has said he will decide the number of seats they receive.

Last year, when Hamas leaders met with Mr. Arafat in Khartoum, the PLO chairman offered the organisation 18 seats in the 450-member council.

Hamas was asking for 40 per cent and the meeting failed to produce a compromise although both sides said the numbers mentioned were negotiable.

"The lack of progress in the peace talks has resulted in a feeling that the struggle goes on — The military struggle is being led by Hamas right now and so it has the chance to get popular support," said a Fateh official in Amman this week.

Palestinian observers believe that the massive expulsion of Palestinians last week prompted Mr. Arafat to call for a meeting with Hamas.

PLO officials in Tunis played down the numerous Hamas statements indicating it wanted to meet with Mr. Arafat.

Many are wary of the kind of power the organisation could wield once they join or merge under the PLO umbrella.

"The people in Tunis, including Arafat, are trying to

avoid bringing Hamas into the PLO/PNC fold," said a Fateh insider who is critical of the policies of the "kitchen cabinet."

Hamas, which has unofficially existed since the early 1980s, was once supported, in principle, by the Israelis who hoped it would wear away the influence of the PLO in the occupied territories. But after the group officially announced its formation in 1988, Israel came to realise that Hamas' tactics were as deadly as that of the PLO.

Hamas's religious image was initially met with disdain by many politicised Palestinians who mostly backed secular groups in the past.

But when Hamas aligned itself with the two popular Palestinian parties — the PFLP and DFLP — its public image began to change.

Much of the Palestinian public is critical of the peace process not only because there has been no result but also because the terms of the talks are not considered sufficient to meet their demands of statehood, a concept which both Israel and the U.S. reject in principle.

But Hamas and the leftist PFLP, which in popularity is second only to Fateh in secular Palestinian circles, oppose the concept of a two-state solution. Their official agendas state that they prefer one state instead of two. Hamas wants the state to be Islamic while the PFLP wants a secular state.

Despite the official rhetoric, both groups are known for their willingness to compromise if they are offered substantial returns. Both groups privately say that they would be willing to help run a state in the West Bank and Gaza and East Jerusalem.

"To give us even less than the territories occupied in 1967 and to refuse the right of return of the refugees to the 1948 areas is not acceptable," said a top Hamas official in Amman, Mohammad Nazzal. "International law is our bottom line. If Israel does not agree to that, then tough luck to peace."

Israeli

(Continued from page 1)

around the Palestinians and fired machineguns over their heads.

Amjad Zamel, 20, was hit in the jaw by shrapnel and taken to a Lebanese hospital. Another Palestinian was hit in the hand in a second round of shooting. Clashes erupted in 'Ain Beit Elma refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus, Mr. Zamel's home, when the news spread.

Elsewhere on the third consecutive day of protests in the occupied territories, residents said Israeli troops shot dead an 11-year-old boy in Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip.

Ayman Abu Amer, nephew of expelled Mamoun Abu Amer, was the ninth Palestinian killed.

The Marj Al Zohour confrontation started at 11 a.m. (0900 GMT), one hour after the Palestinians evacuated their newly-erected tent city on orders from the Lebanese army and headed towards the "security zone."

Husseini calls for Israeli-PLO talks

(Continued from page 1)

draft agenda for their negotiations on interim Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We found that it is something to legitimise occupation, something cutting to pieces the whole area of the occupied territories and to create a situation which will block any possibility of a Palestinian state. This way of thinking really is the problem," he said.

In the Tunis meetings, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat received support from Palestinian leaders for his efforts to patch differences with rival Muslim fundamentalists, but hardliners still insisted on withdrawing from the peace talks.

Mr. Hussein welcomed the overture of inviting the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to meetings in Tunis as "a necessary step to develop inter-Palestinian relations."

"Hamas is an important element in the national unity, and we are all fighting the same battle against our ruthless enemy," Mr. Hussein said.

In Damascus, 10 Palestinian groups opposed to the peace talks issued a statement showing suspicions about Mr. Arafat's motives.

The Damascus coalition, which includes Hamas, said the invitation "was allegedly made to discuss the expulsion issue, but the real aim was to discuss the peace process and dismember the alliance of the 10 groups as a force opposed to Zionist American settlement plans."

A leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the second-largest PLO faction and one of the 10 hardline groups, said the PFLP will press the Palestinian leaders to order the withdrawal of the Palestinian team from the peace talks.

Abdul Rahim Malouh, a member of the political bureau of the PFLP, said it was futile to continue the talks because Israel has shown no sign of compromise.

"No Palestinian leader can justify now the continuation of the talks because the outcome has so far been destructive, especially in regard to the situation in the occupied territories," he said.

He also welcomed the participation of Hamas in the gathering of Palestinian leaders and expressed hope it would "play a positive role in the decision-making process."

Another of the 10, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, is boycotting the meetings, demanding the withdrawal of the Palestinians.

Previous attempts to reconcile Hamas with Arafat's mainstream Fateh faction have failed. The two groups have engaged at times in bloody confrontations in efforts to win support among Palestinians in the occupied territories.

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AMMAN PLAZA

It's All Happening In December
At The Amman Plaza Hotel

*Celebrate Christmas In Style
This Year - The Plaza Way*

Christmas Goodies Sales Counter / Santa's Grotto
open from Thursday 10th Dec.
Pick your favourite christmas fare and select from a wide variety of cakes, Yule logs, mince pies, ginger bread men, assorted cookies and chocolate delights. Bring the children and visit Santa at the same time every day between 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Order your home-made christmas turkey and we will deliver it to you ready to serve.

Christmas Eve Dinner
Wednesday 24th. Dec.
Jazz up your Christmas Eve and join us at the Andalusia Restaurant for gourmet dinner, romantic atmosphere, exclusive service, and jaunty jazz by Jazz Matazz

Price: JD 18++

For reservations and enquiries, please call 674111 and ask for the box office.

Children's Christmas Party
Tuesday 22nd Dec.
4:00pm. To 6:00pm.
For the first time in Amman children can enjoy their own special christmas party at the ballroom. The program features: The muppet show, presents for every child, fantastic games, super Snacks and lots more!
Ticket price: JD 6++
Accompanying adults complimentary.

Christmas Day Lunch
Friday 25th Dec.
At the Coffee Shop
A sumptuous buffet lunch for the whole family. Children can enjoy Santa's visit and presents.
Price: JD 12 ++ adults
JD 6 ++ children

FORTE HOTELS

Barcelona lose lead; Deportivo back on top

MADRID (R) — Hristo Stoichkov and Ronald Koeman were sent off as Barcelona lost their lead in the Spanish Championship Sunday.

Nine-man Barcelona were held 3-3 by unfancied Rayo Vallecano, who collected eight of the 13 bookings in the bitter battle. Bulgarian forward Stoichkov, voted second this weekend behind Marce Van Basten in the European Footballer of the Year Awards, departed just seven minutes into the game for a second yellow card offence.

Moments after receiving his first caution for protesting to the referee he was involved in another dispute over a free-kick. Dutch defender Koeman was dismissed in the 70th minute for deliberate handball when Austrian Anton Polster seemed certain to score.

It failed to deter Polster. The Austrian calmly drove home the ensuing penalty to complete his hat-trick and add to his goals in the second and 20th minutes.

Koeman had begun Barcelona's resurgence in the 40th minute after they were two goals down by scoring from the penalty spot.

Although they again fell two behind after Polster's penalty, Barcelona dug deep into their reserves and hit back through some superb creative play by Danish striker Michael Laudrup.

After a deceptively weaving run through the centre by Laudrup, Jose Bakero volleyed a 20-metre left-foot shot into the net and five minutes later Julio Salinas levelled.

It was a courageous response by the depleted Barcelona team but they still surrendered the league lead to Deportivo Coruna, who surprised Real Zaragoza with a 2-0 away win, their first victory there in 40 years.

Striker Claudio Barragan scored the first after seven minutes and Brazilian Jose Bebeito the second from a 22nd minute penalty.

Atletico Madrid slid to a disastrous 1-0 home defeat to bottom-placed Logrones, only their second victory of the season and their first away.

With Real Madrid losing 2-0 at Seville Saturday, the capital's top two teams lost ground.

Deportivo have 23 points, Barcelona 22 and a game in hand, and third-placed Real Madrid 20.

Feyenoord grab second place behind PSV

Feyenoord Rotterdam scored twice in the last five minutes to beat Willem II Tilburg 2-0 and move into second place behind PSV Eindhoven in the Dutch League.

Henk Fraser broke the deadlock in the 85th minute and Nigerian striker Mike Obiku added the second three minutes later as Feyenoord climbed above FC Utrecht on goal difference.

Defending champions PSV, who beat Vitesse Arnhem 1-0, have 26 points, five more than Feyenoord and FC Utrecht, as the Dutch League begins a two-month winter break.

PSV coach Hans Westerhof, whose side have dropped only four points so far this season, said they were ready for a rest after a

lacklustre performance not helped by an injury list including Wim Kieft, Berry Van Aerle, Erwin Koeman and Jui Ellerman.

UEFA Cup holders Ajax Amsterdam are sixth, eight points adrift of PSV but with two games in hand over the leaders.

AEK wins, increases lead

Remaining undefeated, defending champion AEK of Athens held a commanding lead in the Greek First Division Soccer league after the weekend's games.

AEK beat Kalamaria 2-0 at home and increased to seven points its lead after 14 games. AEK has 38 points. Olympiakos of Piraeus, who played to a scoreless draw against Paok in Salonica Sunday, follows with 31.

Panathinaikos of Athens and OFI Crete share third place with 27 points each.

Panathinaikos beat Aris 1-0 in Salonica, and OFI defeated Pierikos 3-0 in Crete.

Vogts 'gets tough' with German players

MONTEVIDEO (R) — German coach Bertie Vogts claimed a new 'get tough' policy towards his players was behind the 4-1 thrashing of Uruguay in Montevideo's Centenario Stadium Sunday.

Vogts, the target of intense criticism following the world champions' hitherto poor recent run of results which included a 3-1 defeat by Brazil Wednesday, said he had learned "to be more aggressive" with his side.

Until the Brazil game, I treated them like friends. After that, I showed them I was the trainer," Vogts said.

A smiling Vogts, whose relations with German reporters had become visibly strained, said he has delighted with the performances of striker Jurgen Klinsmann, midfielder Andreas Moeller and sweeper Golo Buchwald against Uruguay, adding: "Moeller could enhance any team in the world."

Moeller, previously unable to hold down a regular place, scored the second goal, set up the fourth for Klinsmann and gave the Uruguayan defence a torrid time.

Vogts has yet to find an adequate replacement for former striker Rudi Voeller, who retired from international soccer this year, while neither Andreas Thom, who partnered Klinsmann against Brazil, nor Thomas Doll, who played against Uruguay, were convincing.

Midfield maestro Lothar Matthaus, who returned to the team against Brazil for the first time since recovering from a serious knee injury, was equally lacklustre in both games.

Matthaus has also found himself the target of much criticism and admitted he would not be back to his best until next year. "A lot of things have happened since 1990 but I think next year I will be back to my old form," he said. "The press distort a lot of things because there is a lot of pressure to see who can sell the most newspapers."

Matthaus' return meant that Fiorentina's Stefan Effenberg, who had taken over the role of playmaker, was pushed to the left side of midfield against Brazil.



Bertie Vogts

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Faldo defeats Norman in golf championship playoff

MONTEGO BAY (R) — Nick Faldo withstood a barrage of birdies by Greg Norman to win the Johnnie Walker World Championship in a sudden-death playoff after he birdied the final hole to tie the Australian. Faldo, who sank a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th to force the playoff, only needed to par in the playoff to collect the \$550,000 first prize. Norman, who won \$300,000 for second place, shot an amazing 63 on a very difficult golf course to post a 72-hole total of 274, six under par for the championship. Faldo, number one in world rankings, closed with a 68 for his 274.

Bowe to make first defence against Dokes

NEW YORK (R) — Heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe will make his first title defence against former champion Michael Dokes February 6 at New York's Madison Square Garden. It was announced Sunday. Bowe's manager, Rock Newman, said Dokes was selected from a group of possible challengers which included Alex Stewart, Francesco Damiani, Tony Tubbs and Alex Garcia. Dokes, who is 44-3-2, won the World Boxing Association heavyweight title from Mike Weaver with a first-round knockout in December 1982, but lost the crown the next year to Gerry Coetzee. At stake will be the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation championships.

Austrian skier dies after downhill victory

VIENNA (R) — Austrian skier Peter Wirsberger died Sunday in a skiing accident shortly after winning a downhill race at Altenmarkt-Zauchensee, near Salzburg. Wirsberger, 24, died instantly after skiing into a wooden fence during a brief skiing outing with his girlfriend between his victory and a delayed awards ceremony, press reports said. Wirsberger was regarded as a rising hope in the Austrian ski team with potential in both the downhill and super-giant slalom events. Wirsberger's death was the 22nd fatal accident among leading skiers since World War II — 11 have died during racing or training.

Tomba still without world title

MILAN (AP) — It should come as no surprise to ski fans that Alberto Tomba is off to a slow start on the slopes this winter. There's a world championship competition coming up, after all.

The 26-year-old Italian, dominant in Olympic years but still without a world title, had disappointing seasons surrounding previous World Championship meets in 1989 and 1991. His performance in the weeks leading up to the 1993 championships in Morioka, Japan, is no better.

Suffering consecutive defeats in four slaloms and three giant slaloms, Tomba has been shut out in the first month of World Cup races for the first time in his career.

"I am not worried. I am in good form and wins will come next month," Tomba said following two more losses in gate events at Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, over the weekend.

He placed second to Swede Tomas Fogdö in a slalom and finished seventh in a giant slalom won by World Cup veteran Marc Girardelli.

In the last few races, Tomba has appeared only a shadow of the powerful and self-confident athlete who last season took nine world cup races and became the first skier ever to win consecutive Olympic titles (Calgary and Albertville).

Some Italian ski experts suggest that Tomba is pressing too hard for wins to please commercial sponsors paying him an estimated \$8 million a year.

His slalom coach Gustavo Thoeni says Tomba only needs some good luck and a bit of concentration to turn things around.

"After all, the placed second three times and third once. Not too bad at all," Thoeni said.

Tomba threw away an almost



Alberto Tomba

certain victory in the Sestriere Slalom last month when he attacked like a fury in the second run and fell. He led the field by more than a second after the first run.

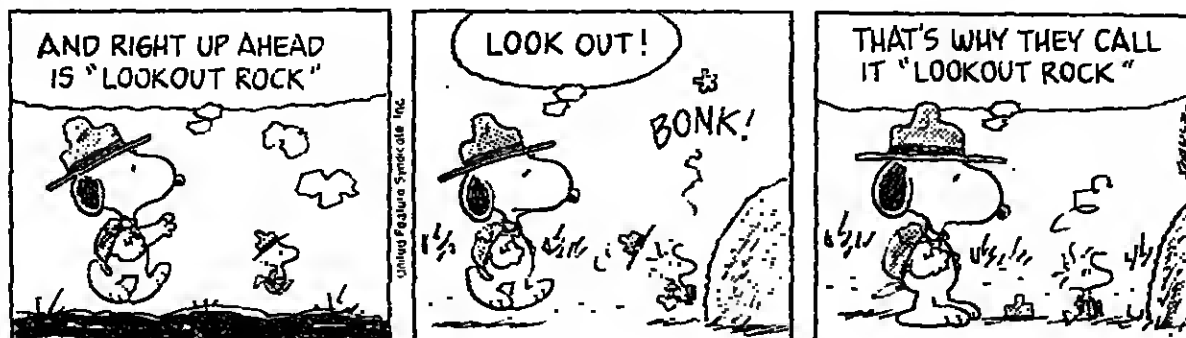
He still leads the overall cup standings with 372 points but is expected to be overtaken Tuesday by Girardelli.

The all-around skier from Luxembourg trails Tomba by only five points following his second victory this season and is expected to pocket points in Tuesday's super giant slalom race in Austria.

Tomba does not start in speed races and will next race in a slalom at Garmisch-Partenkirchen Jan. 10.

The Italian often has said that the overall title is out of his range under present rules benefiting skiers who compete in all four disciplines.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



وزارة الأشغال العامة والإسكان
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

**Ministry of Public Works & Housing
Government Tenders Directorate
General Tenders Announcement
Invitation
To Tender No. (175/92)**

International firms, specialised in telecommunication, who are interested in participating in this tender are requested to contact the Government Tenders Directorate at Ministry of Public Works & Housing Amman, Jordan to receive tender documents starting from 19/12/1992 and in accordance with the following terms:

- Scope of work:
The Telecommunication Corporation of Jordan is going to expand and improve telephone services to the rural areas in Ma'an Governorate and Madaba area using radio rural systems.
Two different systems two different capacities are required. A system with minimum capacity of 1250 subscribers shall be installed at Ma'an Governorate to offer direct telephone services to the subscribers in 39 villages and clusters distributed as shown in fig. 2 in volume 2 of this tender document. The expected traffic is 0.04 Erlange per subscriber. In Ma'an, both the exchange and radio station are in the same site.
The second system shall have a minimum capacity of 250 lines to be installed at Madaba city, 200 out of it shall be used to improve and increase the junction circuit between Madaba existing exchange and the manual board serving the rural area south to Madaba, the expected traffic is 0.4 Erlange. The other 50 lines shall be used for direct subscribers, the estimated traffic is 0.04 Erlange.
The system shall be used to replace the existing junction cables. More than 30 villages shall be served by this system distributed as shown in fig. 3 in volume 2. In Madaba the radio station is 850 metre far from the exchange location.
The geographical location of these areas are shown on the Jordan map attached to volume 2 of this tender documents.
- Each tender price is JD(300) non-refundable.
- Last date for purchase of tender documents on March 11th, 1993.
- Offers shall be submitted to the Government Directorate before 13:30 local time on Saturday 20th of March, 1993.

**Chairman, General Tenders Committee
Government Tenders Directorate
Eng. Basheer Al-Jaghbeer**

GOREN BRIDGE
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A J 8 ♠ A K J 6 3 ♠ K Q 10 9
The bidding has proceeded:
North South East
1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 2 Pass
3 Pass 3 Pass
What action do you take?
A.—North's action is not forward-going and the hand is a potential misfit. However, North might have as much as 9-10 points, so you shouldn't rule out game possibilities. The only invitational bid available of two no trump, and we would bid it.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ J 7 6 ♠ A J 6 5 2 ♠ Q 4 3 ♠ 9
The bidding has proceeded:
North South East
1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 2 Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—No, this is not the hand where you raise partner's second suit with three good trumps. There's a possibility partner has three-card heart support. Bid the fourth suit, two diamonds, to see what he does next.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J 7 6 ♠ 9 8 4 ♠ Q 8 2 ♠ 6 5 4
The bidding has proceeded:
North South East
1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 2 Pass
What action do you take?
A.—No matter what system you play, partner's redouble in this sequence is for, takeout. Do your duty—introduce your best suit by retreating to one spade.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A K Q ♠ 9 8 5 ♠ J 9 ♠ A K J 7
The bidding has proceeded:
North South East
1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 2 Pass
What action do you take?
A.—It will be a miracle if your combined holding stretches to 11 tricks, but there are other game possibilities—three no trump and four spades (possibly on a 4-3 fit). Test the waters by bidding two spades.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A 5 4 ♠ 6 3 ♠ 9 8 5 2 ♠ K J 7 6
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
A.—With no stopper in either red suit, we would avoid one no trump, and a one diamond response could lead to trouble later. Bid two clubs. What if partner made a "prepared" one-club opening on a three-card suit? So you play a 4-3 fit which might actually be your best spot.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q 8 7 6 3 ♠ A K J 5 4 ♠ 8 ♠ 6 2
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?
A.—With two five-card suits, always bid the higher-ranking first, regardless of suit quality. That's just the opposite of what you do with four-baggers. Therefore, bid one spade.

HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR TUESDAY DECEMBER 22, 1992
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when you can be busy organising your life in such a fashion that you will be able to achieve a great deal that is practical in scope if you avoid a temptation toward wishful thinking.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Put yourself in a position to be more aware of the needs and desires of your own household and to find new ways to make your family happier.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) In any communications with other persons make sure that you add a personal note of friendship to strengthen the bonds between you and them.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Look at what you possess and see what you can best do to increase its value by adding something others regard as attractive and valuable.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can evade more than usual care today so don't hold back but get closer to those you like by actively expressing it in little ways.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Quietly let your close attachment know more definitely of the love and affection that you feel for that person and you can reap big benefits.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider what friend has been having a most difficult time and do what you can to appease his happiness by a thoughtful gesture towards him/her.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You make your biggest real now by expressing your charm in the world-of-activity and especially with initial persons.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A new acquaintance connected with a close one is the best person for you to concentrate on for deeper friendship.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) An associate usually very restless and will respond to your desire more worthwhile alliance no contact this person.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A fellow worker has been out of sorts and he's a good humor by you if you take the time to develop more intimacy in mutual joint concerns.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A fine day to arrange entertainments and receive their appeal to you the best as invite those you like to join you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are naturally quite rational in thought and about you want to take some change another direction, this is the day to do so.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris
HARRIS

"What the world needs is less human nature and more human nurture!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KUSYD
SEGIN
UNBEAT
GANDIL

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: SCARY, BERT, MOAIR, SUGRY
Answer: What TV couch potatoes sometimes watch for 4 HOURS

THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker

ACROSS
1 Dim the eyes
6 Archaic survey
10 Dramatic conflict
14 "Call You Sweetheart"
15 Part
18 Paul of old film
19 Of a grain
18 Capri, I.G.
19 City map
20 Shellfish
22 60s musical
23 Encourage in a prime
24 Exhilarate
26 Every 50 minutes
30 Pulse
32 Concocting
33 Lay "on in the arse"
35 Food regimens
38 Fate
41 Concoct
43 A Muse
44 Cruising
46 Columbus
47 Not suitable
48 Soapstone
51 Arise
54 Being
56 Jay
57 Certain vertebrates
63 Type type
64 Big cat
65 Ton
66 Having no irregularities
67 Caesar's road
68 Fish toward
69 O'Urberness
70 Wrongful act
71 Greasy of football

DOWN
1 Young group
2 Norman of TV
3 Cauterous utterance
4 Singer Ed
5 Head car, e.g.
6 Short time
7 Language code
8 Kite Cinders
9 More acute
10 Some creatures
11 US\$4 trillion
12 Walking (related)
13 Saltwater var.
21 Cream
25 Pie a la
26 Stash
28 Minor
29 Cold-blooded ones
31 Jelly's alter ego
34 Vault
36 Gave forth
37 Salad fish
38 Box
39 Coast, sea
42 Mrs. Gorbachev
45 Fruit canner worker
48 Axia
50 A Rockefeller
51 Fr. royal name
52 Greenish shade
53 Ties up
55 Intelligent
58 Rec. e.g.
59 — best
60 Chest for violas
61 Actor Ryan
62 Like the Gold

Economy

Financial Markets
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

| Currency | New York Close | Tokyo Close |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| sterling Pound | 1.5600 | 1.5695 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.5640 | 1.5637 |
| French Franc | 1.5085 | 1.4975 |
| Japanese Yen | 5.3420 | 5.3375 |
| European Currency Unit | 1.2465 | 1.2500 |

| Interest Rate | 1 MTH | 3 MTHS | 6 MTHS | 12 MTHS |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| Libor | 3.55 | 5.46 | 3.31 | 4.06 |
| sterling Pound | 7.12 | 6.93 | 6.75 | 6.81 |
| Swiss Franc | 9.12 | 9.00 | 8.56 | 7.93 |
| French Franc | 6.25 | 6.12 | 5.93 | 5.56 |
| Japanese Yen | 12.00 | 11.56 | 10.87 | 9.75 |
| European Currency Unit | 3.90 | 3.75 | 3.66 | 3.65 |

| Gold | USD/Oz | JD/Gm | Silver | USD/Oz | JD/Gm |
|------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| old | 336.8 | 6.60 | Silver | 3.77 | .060 |

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| Libor | 0.6870 | 0.6890 |
| sterling Pound | 1.0771 | 1.0825 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.4388 | 0.4410 |
| French Franc | 0.4675 | 0.4699 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.1285 | 0.1291 |
| European Currency Unit | 0.5573 | 0.5601 |
| Gold | 0.3902 | 0.3922 |
| Silver | 0.0992 | 0.0997 |
| Iran Rial | 0.0469 | 0.0491 |
| Iran Rial | 0.02129 | 0.02140 |

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| Libor | 1.7970 | 1.8200 |
| sterling Pound | 0.03615 | 0.03628 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.1629 | 0.1640 |
| French Franc | 2.7800 | 2.3000 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.1861 | 0.1872 |
| European Currency Unit | 0.2620 | 0.2150 |
| Iran Rial | 1.7560 | 1.7820 |
| Iran Rial | 0.1861 | 0.1872 |
| Iran Rial | 0.3270 | 0.3360 |
| Iran Rial | 1.4630 | 1.4780 |

| Currency | 19. 12. 92 Close | 20. 12. 92 Close |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Libor | 167.60 | 168.52 |
| sterling Pound | 121.44 | 123.16 |
| French Franc | 183.56 | 183.52 |
| Japanese Yen | 228.12 | 227.94 |
| European Currency Unit | 239.81 | 240.22 |

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| U.S. dollar | 1.2740/45 | Canadian dollar | 1.5665/75 |
| Swiss franc | 1.5680/7610 | Deutsche marks | 1.4115/25 |
| Belgian franc | 32.14/19 | Swiss francs | 5.3525/3625 |
| French franc | 1400/1410 | Japanese yen | 123.00/10 |
| Japanese yen | 6.9500/9600 | Swedish crowns | 6.7300/7400 |
| Norwegian crowns | 6.0450/0550 | Danish crowns | 1.5640/50 |
| sterling pound | 5336.25/336.75 | | |

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| COMPANY'S NAME | TRADING PRICE | OPENING PRICE | CLOSING PRICE |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| JORDAN TELECOM BANK | 20.405 | 2.500 | 2.500 |
| JORDAN FINANCIAL BANK | 85.773 | 2.500 | 2.500 |
| THE JORDAN BANK | 4.232 | 3.500 | 3.500 |
| ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK | 1.560 | 2.500 | 2.500 |
| INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK | 23.162 | 3.100 | 3.100 |
| ORIENT BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 1.065 | 2.100 | 2.100 |
| ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN | 2.197 | 3.100 | 3.100 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL BANK | 426.234 | 4.100 | 4.100 |
| JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK | 3.760 | 4.000 | 4.000 |
| JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD | 151.525 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT | 124.298 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES | 63.289 | 4.100 | 4.100 |
| WORLDWIDE BANK | 39.396 | 3.100 | 3.100 |
| BEST GLOBAL INVESTMENT/PORTFOLIO FOR HOUSING | 346.043 | 5.500 | 5.500 |
| REAL ESTATE & FINANCIAL ADVISORS | 120 | 0.800 | 0.800 |
| ARAB BANK | 990.408 | 125.000 | 125.000 |
| ARAB BANK | 1.500 | 2.500 | 2.500 |
| ARAB BANK | 3.268 | 3.000 | 3.000 |
| JORDANIAN INSURANCE | 1.125 | 3.100 | 3.100 |
| UNITED INSURANCE | 1.400 | 3.200 | 3.200 |
| JORDAN PRICES INSURANCE | 26.446 | 3.200 | 3.200 |
| JORDANIAN INSURANCE & REINSURANCE | 5.190 | 3.100 | 3.100 |
| ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE | 118.427 | 1.100 | 1.100 |
| JORDANIAN INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE | 2.750 | 2.750 | 2.750 |
| JORDAN BANK & COMMERCE | 2.800 | 5.000 | 5.000 |
| JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER | 50.025 | 3.500 | 3.500 |
| ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS | 9.812 | 0.600 | 0.600 |
| LIBERTY & POSTAGE | 0.080 | 1.210 | 1.210 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE | 10.396 | 1.210 | 1.210 |
| JORDAN PRESS PUBLICATIONS / ALBA | 2.400 | 0.800 | 0.800 |
| UNITED HOTELS EAST & COMMERCE HOTELS | 11.648 | 2.750 | 2.750 |
| JORDAN HOTEL CORPORATION | 780 | 0.800 | 0.800 |
| HAZELBRIER EQUIP. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE | 4.565 | 1.100 | 1.100 |
| PETER INVESTMENTS & PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT | 1.473 | 1.170 | 1.170 |
| JORDAN ONLY REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT | 19.325 | 0.810 | 0.810 |
| JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER | 3.343 | 1.100 | 1.100 |
| JORDAN PRESS & PUBLICATIONS / ADVERTISING | 6.990 | 0.800 | 0.800 |
| JORDAN KEMAT CO. FOR ADVERTISING & PUBLISHING | 9.125 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| ARAB BANK CONVERTING & TRADING | 209.861 | 1.850 | 1.850 |
| JORDAN BANK | 4.828 | 2.500 | 2.500 |
| THE PUBLIC TRADING | 125 | 2.400 | 2.400 |
| ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY | 213.119 | 10.000 | 10.000 |
| ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING | 190.748 | 0.800 | 0.800 |
| THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL | 16.718 | 0.700 | 0.700 |
| ARAB CHEMICALS INDUSTRIES INVESTMENT | 15.760 | 21.000 | 21.000 |
| NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES | 46.522 | 5.800 | 5.800 |
| DAN AL DANA INVESTMENT & INVESTMENT | 57.180 | 10.200 | 10.200 |
| INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES | 45.885 | 3.900 | 3.900 |
| THE JORDAN HOTELS | 28.566 | 10.000 | 10.000 |
| JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES | 89 | 0.940 | 0.940 |
| JORDAN CEMENT CO. FOR ADVERTISING & PUBLISHING | 223.521 | 4.100 | 4.100 |
| ARAB CEMENT CO. FOR ADVERTISING & PUBLISHING | 12.893 | 0.970 | 0.940 |
| NATIONAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES | 97.244 | 13.400 | 13.500 |
| ALABAMA INDUSTRIES | 880 | 4.000 | 4.200 |
| ARAB INDUSTRIES | 18.181 | 1.500 | 3.300 |
| WOLFE INDUSTRIES | 22.124 | 0.810 | 2.420 |
| JORDAN INDUSTRIES & HOTELS/JOHNS | 24.598 | 1.380 | 1.390 |
| SPINNING & WEAVING | 22.923 | 2.270 | 2.190 |
| ATTACHED COURT. INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING | 57 | 1.080 | 1.130 |
| NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING | 57.472 | 0.810 | 0.800 |
| JORDAN HELICOPTER MANUFACTURING | 117.454 | 4.600 | 4.600 |
| THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORY | 93.008 | 1.400 | 1.440 |
| JORDAN BOARDS/INDUSTRIES | 254 | 2.180 | 2.150 |
| JORDAN PERCENT CONCRETE INDUSTRY | 41.000 | 0.640 | 0.630 |
| UNIVERSAL MACHINERY INDUSTRIES | 223.218 | 0.940 | 0.970 |
| ARAB INVESTMENT & INDUSTRIAL TRADING | 45.470 | 3.900 | 3.000 |
| JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY | 19.125 | 0.900 | 0.910 |

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IDA aid to favour globe's poorest

BERNE (R) — The International Development Association (IDA), provider of low-cost aid to developing countries, has said it would distribute more of its resources to the world's poorest, least creditworthy countries.

The IDA, an arm of the Washington-headquartered World Bank, also said its 34 donor countries had agreed to replenish IDA funds with 13 billion Special Drawing Rights (about \$18 billion) over three years from next July 1.

"(IDA) will reduce the share of its lending to countries able to access international financial markets as well as IDA resources," World Bank Managing Director Ernest Stern told a news conference in Geneva.

He added that the countries likely to receive less of IDA's aid than in previous years were China, India, Pakistan, Nigeria and a number of others which all could raise money on international capital markets.

IDA would focus more on the poorest countries of Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America, with particular emphasis on poverty reduction, family planning and social services for women in these areas, he said.

Mr. Stern said the willingness of donor nations to contribute \$18 billion — a slight increase in real terms over \$15.5 billion agreed by donors in the ninth replenishment — was remarkable at a time of sluggish economic growth and fiscal restraint.

After repayments by borrowers IDA would have some \$22 billion at its disposal for funding development projects between mid-1993 and mid-1996.

Some major donors had not been able to maintain the shares of total contributions they had made in previous IDA replenishment negotiations, Mr. Stern said.

He added that demand on IDA resources had risen in real terms because the number of borrower countries had increased and greater attention was being paid to the environmental ramifications of development aid.

This would constrain some of IDA's support for development projects in certain countries.

Turkey sees oil prospects in Turkic CIS members

ANKARA (R) — Turkey, by exploiting close ethnic and cultural ties with parts of former Soviet Asia, hopes to throttle back its heavy dependence on oil imports from the volatile Middle East, industry and government officials say.

Deals with oil-producing Central Asian republics whose language and culture is similar to that of Turkey should curb the dominance of Middle East suppliers in decades to come.

Apart from modest amounts from China and Iran last year, Arab producers provided the bulk of Turkey's 18 million tonnes of imports. Domestic output runs at 4.5 million.

The state-run Turkish Petroleum Company (TPAO) recently announced it had set up a joint Turk-Kazakh oil venture to explore for crude in seven fields in Kazakhstan.

"This project will provide a vital contribution to Turkey's oil needs next century," State Ministry Orhan Kilercioglu told Reuters.

Under the 25-year contract, the joint Kazakh-Turk oil, 40 per cent owned by the Turkish partner, will explore in the pre-Caspian basin. The basin provides around half of current Kazakh crude output of 22 million tonnes.

TPAO Chairman Okan Ozdemir said total recoverable reserves in the fields were estimated at more than 10 billion barrels.

Kazakh-Turk oil will operate the fields and market its output when it discovers oil.

"We have rich resources. If Turkey participates in use of them, it will help raise living standards in both countries," Kanat Saudbayev, Kazakhstan's ambassador to Ankara, said.

Apart from the TPAO deal, Turkey's privately-run Pet Holding signed a similar joint venture last year with Azerbaijan's Azneft to rehabilitate Azeri oil fields.

"We may begin production in some of the fields within three months," Pet Chairman Gunekin Koksali said. His firm holds 50 per cent stake in Azeri-Pet oil.

Birlesmis Muhendisler Buros (BMB) signed a protocol in July for the operation of four oil fields, rehabilitation of two others and construction of a thermal power plant.

But the agreement, scheduled for Nov. 1, has not been signed.

BMB sources have said that Kazakhstan has been asked to assign it some other oil fields to develop after three of those initially allocated proved unproductive.

Industry sources say BMB has been negotiating with another Central Asian republic, Turkmenistan, to operate its fields.

Turkish and Kazakh pipeline officials have been studying a project to carry Kazakh oil to Turkish ports. Oil officials in Ankara say the realisation of these projects will cut Turkey's import dependence on the volatile Middle East.

Mr. Ozdemir told Reuters Turkish recoverable reserves were 870 million barrels.

Turkey has licensed about 30 foreign and domestic firms to explore for oil on and off shore.

Among these firms are arms of Chevron Corp., Western Discovery, Mobil Corp and Texaco Inc., all of the United States, British Petroleum Co. PLC (B.P.) and also Royal Dutch Shell's Turkish Shell.

TPAO has also been searching for offshore oil jointly with Shell and Mobil in the Black Sea and eastern Mediterranean since 1991, officials said.

Referring to Central Asian republics, Mr. Ozdemir said "keep your eyes on us. We will sign similar deals in other countries."

Investcorp acquires half of Germany's Mondi Group

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain-based Investcorp Bank E.C. Inv. B.H. said it had acquired a 50 per cent interest in the Mondi Group of Germany, a leading designer and manufacturer of fashionable women's clothing.

An Investcorp statement said it bought the stake from Mondi founder Herwig Zahm, who will hold the remaining 50 per cent.

It quoted Investcorp official

William Flanz as saying Mondi was a "successful and innovative company...well-positioned to capitalise on trends in the clothing industry."

The statement said Investcorp would help work on increasing the Munich-based group's competitiveness by focusing on strategy, operations and finance. It now sells in 55 countries.

Shareholders in six Gulf Arab states own Investcorp, which channels private investment into Western companies. It often arranges for private firms like Tiffany's to become publicly traded and makes a substantial profit in the process.

It did not reveal its ultimate plans for Mondi or disclose how much it paid.

Thousands of Greeks evade taxes

ATHENS (AP) — A new computer system designed to help crack down on Greek tax evaders, has turned up at least 25,000 alleged culprits, finance ministry sources have said.

The sources, which asked not to be named, confirmed reports that the finance ministry has been using the system, installed last summer, to cross reference tax returns with peoples' spending habits.

The ministry has also been checking credit card records against tax declarations. One

source said the credit records have so far shown to be the most powerful tool in their effort to find evaders.

Minister of Economy and Finance Stefanos Manos has made battling an estimated 1 trillion drachmas (\$5 billion) a year in tax evasion his top priority.

According to the weekly paper, Sunday to Vima, the finance ministry used credit card records to find that 15 stores had failed to declare 343.7 million drachmas (\$1.7 million) in incomes last year.

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Relief flights to Sarajevo resume

SARAJEVO (AP) — The U.N. air bridge to Sarajevo resumed operation Monday with the arrival of a British relief plane, but heavy clouds forced back a second aircraft.

While planes were ferrying supplies to help stop the advance of winter misery, European Community foreign ministers in Brussels were discussing ways to pressure Yugoslavia to end the war in the breakaway Bosnian Republic.

And ballots were being counted in Serbia's presidential elections, which gave voters a choice between the nationalist policies of incumbent Slobodan Milosevic and the more moderate Yugoslav premier, Milan Pantic.

Preliminary tallies from Sunday's polling showed them running neck-and-neck, and persistent reports that Mr. Milosevic's supporters were rigging votes. Sarajevo, which has been surrounded by Serb forces for more than eight months, is suffering through the beginning of winter with no heat, electricity or running water.

Life for its remaining 380,000 people has been made more miserable by suspension of the relief flights, a key source of food and medical supplies.

Aleka Lisinski, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Zagreb, said the British plane landed Monday in Sarajevo at 8:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) and was to be followed by 11 others.

But an American plane was turned back due to poor visibility over the city, which is ringed by mountains. It was not clear when more landings would be attempted.

Airborne relief was cut off Dec. 1 after an American plane was hit by ground fire near the airport in the city's outskirts.

The resumption of the relief flights came as military representatives of Bosnia's Muslim-led government, Serbs and Croats continued daily meeting to discuss demilitarising the city.

Negotiations over the weekend reportedly bogged down over priorities and where the airport would figure in an eventual demilitarised zone.

Bosnian Serbs, who aim artillery and small arms fire daily at Sarajevo, want to first establish safe corridors for civilians in and out of the city. And they want the airport at the edge of the demilitarised zone.

The Bosnian government argues that the guns should be removed first, and wants the airport in the centre of the projected zone.

EC ministers were meeting a day after President George Bush and Prime Minister John Major of Britain agreed on the need to enforce a "no-fly" zone barring Serb aircraft over Bosnia.

"What we want is a rapid and radical change in policy out of Belgrade," said Douglas Hurd, the British Foreign Secretary, as he entered EC headquarters for the talks.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Major set no deadline for Serb compliance and refused to say what would trigger enforcement. The U.N. Security Council is expected to vote this week on enforcing the Oct. 9 ban.

European Community peace negotiator Lord Owen has hammered out a plan for demilitarising Sarajevo after four days of

shuttle diplomacy among warring factions around the city.

"I think we've laid a framework for demilitarising Sarajevo...no doubt there will be many ups and downs along the way but we have agreed now on a structure," Lord Owen told reporters after nearly three hours of talks with Bosnian Serbs in Lukavica near Sarajevo.

"If we can get this framework of cooperation working in Sarajevo it will be a great deal easier to get it working later in the rest of the country," he added.

Lord Owen has persuaded Muslim, Serb and Croat factions to create four working committees to solve groups of problems.

Among the issues to be addressed are demilitarising an area around Sarajevo's Airport, restoring utilities, creating joint police patrols in divided neighbourhoods and giving humanitarian assistance.

Lord Owen said each of the committees would coordinate its activities with an existing body known as the Mixed Military Working Group (MMWG).

That group is chaired by General Philippe Morillon, French commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, and includes senior military commanders from the three sides.

"What is clear is we can't move a step unless we have military authorisation, so we always have to come back to the Mixed Military Working Group," Lord Owen said.

Local military commanders have often scuttled ceasefire agreements and blocked U.N. efforts to repair utilities and

humanitarian convoys. Rather than focus on signing agreements, Lord Owen spent his time in Sarajevo trying to build a negotiating structure strong enough to survive temporary setbacks.

"It has got to be robust enough to survive a deterioration of relations," he told reporters. "You're always going to have to deal with flareups of fighting in a situation like this."

Lord Owen met Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, and Ratko Mladic, commander of his army, Monday.

He returned to Sarajevo to meet Bosnian Prime Minister Mile Akmadzic, a Croat who recently assumed office.

Lord Owen announced he would leave Sarajevo by air later Monday to meet Cyrus Vance, his U.N. counterpart and co-chairman of the Geneva peace talks on former Yugoslavia.

The EC negotiator plans to stop in Zagreb to consult General Sath Nambiar, U.N. commander in former Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile, Muslim and Croat forces fighting Bosnian Serbs around Sarajevo have made 230 metres advance towards the strategic Serb satellite town of Vogosca, Sarajevo Radio said Monday.

Vogosca contains two munitions factories and controls the road between the Bosnian Serb headquarters at Pale, 15 kilometres outside Sarajevo, and Serb-controlled territory west of the city.

There was sporadic machinegun and small arms fire in Sarajevo during the night and artillery fire could be heard in the distance to the west.



Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Pantic waves to supporters as he casts his ballot at a polling station in Belgrade (AFP photo)

Irish Protestants kill father as family wraps Christmas presents

BELFAST (AP) — Two gunmen shot dead a Roman Catholic man, narrowly missing his five-year-old daughter who was playing on his knee while the family wrapped Christmas presents.

The Ulster Volunteer Force, an outlawed Protestant paramilitary group, in a message to news organisations claimed responsibility for the shooting. The group said the man was a member of Irish Republican Army (IRA).

News media identified the man as Martin Lavery, 40. Press Association, the British national news agency, said Mr. Lavery's family denied he belonged to the IRA.

The killing was the latest in a

pattern of stepped up attacks against Catholics by the two main Protestant, or loyalist, groups the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Defence Association.

Later, a small bomb exploded outside a bank in downtown Belfast late Sunday causing slight damage and no injuries, police said. Before the explosion, the IRA warned that bombs had been placed outside three banks.

In a statement on the Belfast shooting, the Royal Ulster Constabulary said the gunmen escaped in a stolen car, which was later found abandoned. Police said the gunmen burst into the family's living room after

getting through a back door into the home in the Catholic Crumlin Road district.

They opened fire, with bullets whizzing past the child, in front of the man's wife and several other family members. The man, who had four children, was shot in the head and chest. He died on the way to hospital.

For the first time since 1975, Protestant gunmen have killed more people than the IRA — at least 32 to the IRA's 26.

In recent interviews with the Associated Press, loyalist commanders claimed that the killings were aimed at punishing Catholics in proportion to IRA activity.

Russian minister offers to resign

MOSCOW (R) — Social Security Minister Ella Pamiłova has offered to leave the Russian government, the first cabinet member of former Acting Minister Yegor Gaidar to ask to quit, Interfax News Agency said Monday.

It said Ms. Pamiłova, the only woman in Mr. Gaidar's cabinet, had written to Mr. Yeltsin asking to be relieved of her post. She gave no reasons for her request.

She made her name in the old Soviet parliament arguing against the "undesired privileges" enjoyed by deputies.

President Boris Yeltsin has been holding talks with Mr. Gaidar's successor, industrialist Viktor Chernomyrdin, about the composition of the new Russian government.

Mr. Chernomyrdin has said he will keep the core of Mr. Gaidar's team intact but has signalled he will change some elements of policy.

Interfax said Mr. Yeltsin had not yet accepted Ms. Pamiłova's resignation.

A veil of secrecy hung over the shape of Russia's next government Monday, with officials un-

able to say if crisis talks between President Yeltsin and his new prime minister had brought concrete results.

Officials at two government press offices and a Yeltsin spokesman could not even say if Mr. Yeltsin had met Mr. Chernomyrdin Monday for a second day of talks.

Mr. Gaidar was ousted a week ago after opposition from the conservative supreme legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies. The new prime minister was previously in charge of the energy sector.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov said Sunday that Mr. Chernomyrdin has been given until Tuesday to announce his new government.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said he was not yet ready to put forward a policy programme, but indicated that there would be some changes. "This is the main question... some positions have to be specified, some directions may have to be reconsidered."

The new prime minister reiterated his commitment to reform, but warned there could be no

quick fix for the economy.

"I would be naive on my part... if I said that I had a solution ready on how to do this," he told Commonwealth Television. "This is not an enterprise, nor simply a collective. It is a whole country."

Meanwhile, liberal Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev sounded a warning Sunday of the threat of a conservative resurgence in Russia that could lead it back to confrontation with the West.

"There is a real danger in foreign policy of a return to the siege fortress (mentality)," he said in a reference to the former Soviet ideology which divided the world into opposing Communist and capitalist camps.

"The Soviet Union was not a great country. It was just a military superpower. Russia will be a great country only as long as it is democratic," he told a political meeting in Moscow.

His comments to a congress of the pro-reform Democratic Russia Movement echoed a mock cold war speech he delivered in Stockholm last week that stunned the world.

New Delhi gives in to Hindu party's demands

NEW DELHI (AP) — The government gave in to demands from a Hindu radical party Monday, easing a confrontation in parliament that had stalled a no-confidence vote against Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) called for the vote last week after nationwide Hindu-Muslim clashes that left 1,200 people dead and 5,000 injured.

On Dec. 6, thousands of Hindu extremists razed a 16th century mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya, touching off the week long violence.

Earlier Monday BJP legislators demanded the presence in the house of their leader Atal Behari Vajpayee, and parliament was adjourned until noon.

Mr. Vajpayee started a hunger strike after police Sunday used wooden clubs and tear gas to disperse a rally of thousands of Hindu activists protesting the dismissal of three BJP-led state governments, the arrests of two top BJP leaders and an ongoing crackdown on three outlawed Hindu radical groups.

Quake hits Indonesian island, Northern Australia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A strong earthquake Monday shook the Moluccas Island of Ambon in the Banda Sea and parts of Northern Australia, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

Prib Harjadi of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said the earthquake measured 6.5 on the Richter Scale. The Australian Seismological Centre measured the temblor at 7.3.

Mr. Harjadi said the epicentre of the quake was 201 miles (450 kilometres) southeast of Ambon and it occurred at 3:52 a.m. (2052 GMT) at a depth of 62.5 miles (100 kilometres) below sea level in the Banda Sea.

Meanwhile another earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale was recorded in the Indian Ocean at a depth of 43 miles (69 kilometres), 87.5 miles (140 kilometres) southwest of the tourist island of Bali.

The quake, at 10:21 a.m. (0321 GMT), was not felt in Bali, according to Indonesian officials.

The quakes occurred nine days after a powerful earthquake measuring 6.8 caused massive tidal waves that killed an estimated 2,500 people in eastern Indonesia.

But the depth of Monday's quakes meant there was little chance of similar tidal waves, said Kevin McCue, head of the Australian Seismology Unit.

An earthquake of 5 can cause considerable damage in populated areas, while a quake of magnitude 7 is considered a major earthquake, capable of widespread, heavy damage.

Roh: Presidential elections calmest, fairest in history

SEOUL (AP) — President Roh Tae-woo said Monday voting for a new president was the fairest and calmest in South Korean history and has brought democracy a step closer to full maturity.

He urged the nation to help President Elect Kim Young-Sam create national reconciliation, adding that "without stability there will be no change in the reform we all need to make."

The remarks, made on nationwide television, were the first by Mr. Roh since Friday's balloting and emphasised the president elect's campaign theme, a call for stability.

They also reflect the pride Koreans have in holding a peaceful campaign and election.

Mr. Roh met with the president elect later Monday and assured him his administration will cooperate for a smooth transition of power. Mr. Kim, a former opposition leader, merged his party with Mr. Roh's ruling party in 1990.

Mr. Kim's victory was seen as a strong vote by South Korea's growing middle class for stability in a time of economic concern over the country's growth, which dipped in the last quarter to 3.1 per cent.

He was expected to continue the policies of Mr. Roh, and said he would move quickly to reaffirm strong ties with traditional allies like the United States and Japan and with newer allies China, Russia and Eastern Europe.

The 65-year-old Kim is the first civilian president of South Korea since 1961, ending 32 years of

military dominated regimes or rule by former generals.

The 28-day campaign period and the election were the calmest since the founding of the nation in 1948. Despite mudslinging and charges of vote-rigging, there was no violence.

"The elections were the calmest and fairest in our history," said Mr. Roh, who in September resigned from the ruling Democratic Liberal Party to ensure neutrality of government officials.

"Our democracy has developed one step higher," he said. "Our democracy is now deeply rooted enough to withstand any challenges."

Final figures for Friday's balloting released over the weekend show Kim Young-Sam won 41.1 per cent, or 9.97 million votes, of the 24 million votes cast. He will take office in February, succeeding Mr. Roh, who by law cannot succeed himself.

Mr. Kim Dae-Jung, 67, the main opposition leader and a longtime political rival of the winner, received 8.04 million votes, or 33.4 per cent. Billionaire Chung Ju Yung, the founder of the Hyundai conglomerate, received 3.88 million votes, or 16.1 per cent of the total.

Meanwhile, the Hyundai Group, which is at odds with the government because of its backing of its founder for president, made moves Monday to reconcile.

Mr. Chung Se-Yung, chairman of Hyundai, the nation's largest

conglomerate, appealed to the president-elect to help the group to become the engine of South Korea's economic growth again.

Mr. Chung's comments, which came in a meeting with group officials, followed the defeat of his older brother, Chung Ju Yung, in Friday's presidential votes.

Chung Ju-Yung, who founded the \$50 billion Hyundai Group, has been under government scrutiny for allegedly using Hyundai's money and manpower for his campaign.

At least 13 Hyundai officials have been arrested and about 50 others were being searched on charges of illegally campaigning for Chung Ju-Yung.

"Hyundai will never be engulfed in political waves again," said Mr. Chung Se-Yung, who took over the group's chairmanship from his older brother late last year.

The Hyundai Group, which manufactures Hyundai cars, is the nation's largest conglomerate whose annual sales account for 11 per cent of South Korea's gross national product.

Meanwhile, an official North Korean newspaper Monday criticised the outcome of presidential elections in South Korea as being contrary to the people's will and manipulated by the United States.

The report in the state-run Rodong Sinmun was the first official comment by the North on the elections won Saturday by Mr. Kim Young-Sam.

Asian republic has been convulsed by months of warfare between Islamic militants and former Communist in which hundreds of people have been killed. Neighbouring Uzbekistan, the region's biggest power, has lent military support to the new Tajik government. Two Uzbek crew members were killed when their MI-24 helicopter was shot down last Friday in the battle for Kofernikhon.

Islamic forces had been holding out in Kofernikhon after pro-government forces, loyal to a new administration dominated by former Communists, wrested control of Dushanbe from them on Dec. 10.

TASS said pro-government troops had now launched a drive against "significant opposition forces" which have fallen back into the mountainous Pamir region to the east of Kofernikhon. The former Soviet Central

Asian republic has been convulsed by months of warfare between Islamic militants and former Communist in which hundreds of people have been killed. Neighbouring Uzbekistan, the region's biggest power, has lent military support to the new Tajik government. Two Uzbek crew members were killed when their MI-24 helicopter was shot down last Friday in the battle for Kofernikhon.

Russian border guards on the Tajik-Afghan frontier warned the Tajik government they would soon be able to do little to guard the border because of refugees massing in the area.

Thousands of people, including armed guerrillas, were heading into the Pyandzh region on Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan, apparently under pressure from pro-government forces, it said, quoting border guard officials.

"Such a concentration of re-

fugees, including many people with guns, is hindering border guards' efforts to protect the frontier and can have dangerous consequences," TASS quoted a spokesman as saying.

The agency said more than 4,000 people had destroyed technical facilities after "occupying" the post of the 12th border guards' unit.

In Dushanbe, fmomali Rakhmonov, a leader of the new administration, repeated a call on Islamic militants to surrender their weapons.

In an interview with the Sadqi Mardum newspaper published Monday, parliament Chairman Rakhmonov said Commonwealth peacekeeping forces could be brought into the country to protect key points and installations once arms had been surrendered and the safety of citizens had been ensured.

"It was the aim sought by the United States in the 'presidential election' to give an impression of 'freshness' to the people by replacing Roh with Kim, while leaving its colonial repressive system intact," said the report, which was broadcast by the Korean Central News Agency.

The new government is the brainchild of the United States, it said. "The South Korean people will see its true colours without difficulty."

South Korea Monday accused North Korea of unjustifiably cancelling inter-Korea prime ministers' talks.

The ninth round of inter-Korea prime ministers' talks was to have begun in Seoul Monday but the North called them off to protest Seoul's plans to hold annual military exercises with the United States.

South Korea and the United States cancelled this year's "Team Spirit," but have recently decided to resume them next spring to pressure Pyongyang to resolve nuclear disputes.

"Your act of unilaterally cancelling mutually agreed upon meeting schedules cannot be justified under any circumstances," South Korean Prime Minister Hyun Soong Jong said in a telephone message to the North.

In the message to his Northern counterpart, Kang Sang San, Hyun said South Korea will continue the military exercises as long as suspicion about the North's nuclear arms develop-



Major: Monarchy will survive horrible year

LONDON (R) —

monarchy may have year but it will emerge and endure, because want it to, Prince Charles said. "I don't think the monarchy is threatened," he said. "I think the monarchy is threatened by the people who don't want it."

Major said on his way to London from a trip to the U.S. Major 21 announced the return to the throne Prince Charles and his wife Princess Diana what Queen Elizabeth called her "happy" (horrible year). But view with the British

monarchy, Mr. Major believed the queen family would prevail in the end and essential landscape. "No one really wants to rid the monarchy, regard difficulties, he added, no enthusiasm amongst try, for anything other continuation of a monarchy... I detect change," Mr. Major

gives birth to sextuplets

ISLAMABAD (R) — year-old wife of a Pakistani recently gave birth to three boys and three semi-official PPI news said. The woman had no children, though 14-year marriage and considered a "social" southern Sind province not allow her to attend or other functions.

"Villagers, especially now consider her lucky and fortunate locality," PPI said.

Gunmen clean the jailbreak restaurant

CAPE TOWN (R) — gunmen robbed a jewellery and handbag Town restaurant last night on Sunday of the restaurant.

Disney stepping film production in 1993

BURBANK, California The Walt Disney Studios production next year at least 30 films more movies than in 1992 officials said. "We're creative and creative more, and we've seen appetite continue to grow," Dick Cook, president of Buena Vista Pictures, said.

The studio released this year, up from 49 in 1991, prior to the 1992 Michael Eisner said. Michael Jeffrey Katzenberg did produced about annually. The new production was based on deals with independent and the increasing impact Disney films on the meat giant's bottom line.

Cook. For the company year ended Sept. 30, Disney reported operating of \$500.2 million, up from \$318.1 million. There were no plans to the studio's management.

Man suspected of burning town straw goats

GAVLE, Sweden (R) — suspected of setting fire straw goats which were Christmas in Sweden charged with causing damage to the town's (40-foot) Julebock, the world, was detained on Dec. 5, at a cost of 100,000 crowns (\$14,500), only to flames again on Dec. 22-year-old man from Gavle had been detained and charged shortly.

spokesman Roger Norrin said same man will be charged damage to a third, straw goat in Gavle's Christmas and with arson for setting fire to an apartment way, Mr. Norrin said. The straw effigies have been burning target for pyromaniacs and only twice in 27 years.

Julebock survived until 1991. It was the third year bad detained a suspected Businessman who pay cost of the Julebock said. The man was charged with arson and setting fire to a straw goat.

Mr. Norrin said. The straw effigies have been burning target for pyromaniacs and only twice in 27 years.

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